FOLITICAL ANTAGONISMS.

of the United States, on the 7th of March, 1862, first propounded, in a special message to Congress, his scheme for the gradual emancipation of slaves them have not that comprehension or clearness of in the Border Slaveholding States, with compensation to loyal owners; we gave it our earnest and dency of their teachings? Nor can their assumpunbesitating support. When, at the opening of tions of superior wisdom or patriotism deter any the last session of the last Congress, he unfolded at length the relations of his proposition under this head, and gave it an extension and scope sufficient to embrace the subject of slavery in all the States; and when, with the view of procuring for his project a place in the fundamental law of the land, he urged upon the attention of Congress the proprie- If they were so clearly "the people," and if wisty of opening the way for an adhesion on the part of all the States to his benelicent plan for the removal of slavery, we again gave to his views all the support in our power, called as we were to labor against the opposition of many among the President's political adversaries, and the more depressing lukewarmness of many among his professed first that spring to her tongue, nor does she perfriends in this matter.

We favored this proposition for many reasons, but chiefly because it seemed to offer a plan for the the office of the Apocalyptic angel at the sound of peaceful removal of an institution which, whatever may be said in its favor or in its legitimate defence by theologians or politicians of a certain school, we should never have thought of creating where it did not exist. Accepting it as a great social fact, which, in the time of men's ignorance, had been allowed, under Providence, to find a lodgment on this continent, we have uniformly sought to deal with it as practical men, called to handle a question involving passions and interests which were ready at any moment to kindle into a consuming flame by the very friction of adverse ideas and aspirations. Hence, in the discharge of our function as public journalists, we have uniformly felt it our dury to oppose those schemes of political and sectional ambition which were initiated by Southern politicians in the peculiar interest of slavery and its extension, whether as exemplified in the annexation of Texas, the war upon Mexico. the conquest and purchase of a portion of its soil. the repeal of the Missouri compromise, the attempted enforcement of the Lecompton constitution on a reluctant people, or, lastly, the propagandism of sedition under the name of secession. Upon each and all of these issues we were found arrayed against the men who assumed to speak in behalf of "the South" and in the interest of "slavery." because, equally on grounds of constitutional law and of public expediency, we were compelled to deny the rightfulness and loubt the wisdom of the measures designated.

But, while thus resisting the projects of a proslavery fanaticism at the South, we never felt it our duty to join in the taunts and defiant recriminations which were constantly hurled at the whole Southern people by the exponents of that fanaticism which at the North was the natural complement of its opposite form of phrenzy at the South. Never was there a better illustration of the progress which is impressed on society by antagonistic force, sometimes tending in a good direction and sometimes in a bad, than that which was afforded by the autegonistic and yet co-operative fanaticisms of the North and South in this matter of slavery. Chattanooga without having been properly exchanged;" Each lived, and moved, and had its being in the and this notwithstanding the expicit denial of Mr. Ould thanked God for the Abolitionists as "the best friends of the South," because they had enabled the Disunionists to fire the Southern heart by inzealots. A Wendell Phillips in Massachusetts, at a time when lovers of their country were deploring | white officers captured while in command of colored troops, the advent of civil war, thanked God that He had created General Beauregard, and instigated him it would enable the rebels to defeat one of the mest in (as though He had prompted the deed of shame) to fire on the flag of his country and thus light up a flame in the land which might consume slavery by its devastations. Disunionists joined hands with Abolitionists in precipitating the great calamity under which the nation groans to-day, and, if nothing else were wanting to repel us from sympathy with either, it would be enough for us to know that they both co-operated in preparing the way for this terrible convuision, and both rejoiced in tract: the ruin their hands had brought when they saw lence from the firm base on which they had been placed by the founders of the Republic. And hence it is that, as lovers of the Union and defenders of the Constitution, we to-day feel called, in sad retrospect of the mischiefs brought cu the land past two years to guide us, we may say that it is most by these opposite forms of political agitation, to shun complicity with each in their schemes of the Constitution and the Laws against armed sedition at the South, we should be recreant to both if we looked with complacency on projected measures which contemplate nothing less than a practical and theoretical subversion of our Government in its form and genius, as foreshadowed in the obliteration of State lines at the South and in the ab sorption of all local government over nearly half the country in the maw of a centralized political and military despotism. The National Government has its rights of

just supremacy which must be maintained, but maintained under the Constitution, and by means adopted in pursuance of the Constitution. On any other theory we should make ourselves partners to the treason which has arrayed the nation in arms, and we are free to confess that we have no heart for a strugg e which should only prove that the North was stronger than the South. The line of partition between loyalty and disloyalty, as we discern it, runs between men who uphold and revere the Constitution and the laws, on the one hand, and mon who contemn and disregard the sanctions of both on the other. The armed revolutionist at the South is no less an enemy of the Union than his aider and abettor at the North, who feeds his phrenzy by adding the fuel of a fanatical policy to quicken the flames of civil war to a redder glow and spread them over a wider range. Nor does it become less our duty to resist the counsels of this insensate faction because some of its votaries may be sincere in their madness. in the "right of secession"—men who have so-

phisticated their sense into a reception of this monstrous political heresy. But for this shall we disband our armies? And if there be men whose zeal in opposing the rebellion has so run away with their discretion that, for all practical purposes, they Our readers are aware that when the President are, as the Postmaster General justly remarks, "aiders and abettors of the Confederates," shall we omit to expose their errors because some among view which would enable them to perceive the tenman who is conscious of his own integrity from arraying the counsels of reason and truth against the suggestions of passion and prejudice. Those who are foremost in asserting their own claims to superior intelligence and virtue generally do so under the painful necessity of finding nobody to believe them. dom was destined to die with them, their contemporaries would be apt to discover the fact without imposing on them the disagreeable task of such constant self-assertion. Wisdom, even when she lifts up her voice in the streets, does not strive nor ery. Words of hate and bitterness are not the petually dabble in the waters of Meribah. When she troubles the stagnant pool it is not to perform whose trumpet "a third part of the waters became wormwood," insomuch that "many men died of the waters because they were made bitter," but she troubles only to heal, like that other angel in the Gospels whose work was remedial and not vindictive when he stirred the waters of Bethesda If it be true, as the Holy Book declares, that men ar? known by their fruits, we have the same high authority for saying that they are "justified" or 'condemned" by their words, and so it comes to pass that, by the one test or the other, wisdom is, in the end, justified of all her children. THE EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS

Gen. Hitchcock, who has had the general direction of natters referring to the exchange of our prisoners, has written to the New York Times a long letter upon the subject, by which the mystery that has enveloped the question, and the confused and contradictory statements which have been made about it, are cleared up.

By this letter, it would seem, our authorities are not to blame for the stoppage of exchanges. They have proposed to the rebel Commissioner to exchange, man for man, all the prisoners now held in the South, but this the rebels have refused to agree to. Other propositions of a bumane character have been made to the rebels, with a view of effecting the release of our prisoners, but they have refused to listen to them.

In all, we hold forty thousand rebel prisoners, while the rebels hold but thirteen thousand Union prisoners; and they insist, as appears from Gen Hitchcock's letter, that the exchange shall be general; that is to say, that we shall and all men concerned will find the easiest road to be the deliver up to them all of the forty thousand prisoners in straightest and the shortest. When a revolution, beneour possession, and receive in return about thirteen thousand men, leaving about twenty seven thousand men, who might, for a few days, be considered on parole not to take up arms unless duly exchanged. But theu, asks Gen. Hitchcock, "what would Mr. Ould do with those men? Judging by what he has actually recently done, he would undoubtedly assume to discharge those men from all obligations under their parole, and put them into the field to fight against national troops, standing under an unstained national flag-the very troops who gallantly captured those men upon bloody battle-fields within the past few

In another place Gen. Hitchcock states that " already the question has come up from Gen. Grant's glorious battle-field at Chattanooga as to what shall be done with a body of the enemy, who, having been paroled as prisoners f war at Vicksburg, have been recaptured in arms at A Governor Adams in South Carolina that any of the Vicksburg prisoners had been sent into

Beside the difficulty above indicated, there are several thers, one of which Gen. Hitchcock discusses at length In accordance with the barbarous proclamation issued by vocations drawn from the threats of mouthing Gen. Jeff. Davis in September of last year, the rebels have persistently refused to deliver up for exchange any of our faster pace than "time" and "God's providence" or any of the colored soldiers who have been taken pri-Our Government cannot permit this, as, he says, portant measures of national policy for the suppression of

> The Times remarks that the country will feel indebted this great question that he has given, and will sustain the Government in the measures it has adopted, as stated by Gen. Hitchcock.

THE LONDON TIMES AS A PROPHET.

The London Times of the 14th instant has an elaborate editorial review of military affairs in this country, which is exceedingly rich, as will be seen from the following ex-

"In all probability the campaign of 1863 had come to n end in Tennessee as well as in Virginia. The month the pillars of our political edifice unseated by vio- of October had been spoken of as likely to witness some remarkable events in the grand contest of the Federal army at Chattanooga with the forces of Gen. Bragg, but othing of importance has taken place, aithough the expectation of some great passage of arms still prevails. Whe ther any thing will be attempted will depend on the state kely the two armies will remain nearly as they are until the return of spring. Indeed, this is almost the best that tion by overshooting the mark with "paper procan be anticipated by the Federals. Troops are being burried up by Gen. Grant, not to proceed with the invasion anarchic and revolutionary violence. Upholding of Georgia, but to defend the Federal communications It is success for them to hold their earthworks at Chaltaoga, to prevent the Confederate cavalry pouncing upon their trains and reducing them to extremities for want of The success of Hooker on the 28th seems, if true, to be unimportant, for the Confederates still hold the west bank of Lookout Creek, and the situation of the two armies remains unchanged. If, then, Gen. Grant can do as much as Gen Rosecrans, and maintain his position during the winter at Chattanooga, he may be considered as naving achieved all that the Federals can hope for. President Davis speaks confidently at Mobile that he will be unable to do this. The Southern statesman declares that Grant will be beaten and driven northward out of Tennessee. Allowing for oratorical exaggeration, it may be presumed that Mr. Davis thinks the chances in the Tennessee campaign are in favor of the Confederates. credence to his assertions, since they coincide suffic with the correspondence from the Federal camp and the general tone of the North respect ng the state of affairs, There is such a remarkable agreement that things are critical, such an absence of the usual prophecies of speedy vic-tory, that we may be sure that the danger to the Federal namy is real and obvious. The best that can happen to the invaders is to be spread an ignominous and ruinous

> The Times then affirms that Geo. Meade will probably spend the winter and spring in repairing railreads, and that the invasion of Virginia "is given up entirely." The expedition talked of to the coast of Texas, it says, will come to nothing." It adds that 1863 will leave matters substantially the same as at the beginning, and therefore it asks " the North whether enough has not been done to prove that the Confederates are determined on independence and strong enough to maintain it?"

HOW TO COMMUNICATE WITH UNION PRISONERS IN RICHMOND - Letters should be written on a half-sheet of note or letter paper, and only on one side. They should relate solely to matters purely demestic. letter in an unscaled envelope, and put in five cents for postage. Address it to the person for whom it is intended, giving his company, regiment, and the prison in which he is confined at Richmond, Va. On the left hand corner " Via Fing of-truce, care of Brig. Gen. S. A. Meremark, "Via Fiag-of-truce, care of Brig. Gen. S. A. Mere-dith, United States Commissioner for Exchange, Fortress being more direct in its approaches and more vio-

THE LAW OF TRUE PROGRESS.

Among all the journa's of the land there is none which is more "radical" than the Chicago Tribune. We do not believe it is any more persuaded that slavery is a social evil than some others among its contemporaries whose political dialect is not precisely modulated according to its own. There are those who, in dealing with questions of concrete politics, feel it necessary to handle them with circumspection and sobriety; and it is probable that the chronic schism between "radicals" and conservatives" springs from those intellectual differences which cause some men to pause at the threshold of all "reforms" to consider the rightfulness, practicability, or expediency of the means employed to reach a certain end, while others are so preoccupied with the desirability of the end had in view that they grow either too precipitate or too unscrupulous in their choice of agencies by which to attain the object of their aspirations.

But our Chicago contemporary, in reading a lecture to some imaginary "conservatives," who, it assumes, are over-anxious to preserve slavery from the consequences of the natural causes working for its destruction, has inculcated some lessons so proper to be marked and digested by impatient radicals" that we cite them for the instruction of the latter, if haply we have any among our readers. It says :

" Saving is a good business, if the thing saved be goo for any thing, and can be secured without too much cost and peril to other interests. If the thing called slavery were a good thing, it would be a highly meritorious endes vor, in the general wreck to which it is going as fast a time and the rush of events in God's providence can carr it, to gather up whatever of the wreck and remnants might be possible, and preserve them for future ure. But, as the case is, it is questionable whether it be worth the while for any man to go gleaning after the reapers of destiny to save the stray straws of that institution which lie about the fields where it so lately flourished. We submit to any of our 'conservative' friends who dislike to see things tumbled about whether it is worth their while to be at much trouble to conserve the odds and ends of such concern. Were the city of Washington here, and could we talk to men in high places, we would submit to them whether it would pay, on the whole, for any Cabinet offi cer to give himself any great anxiety to gather up and hold on to the flying threads of that dark web now so ra-pidly ravelling out in Missouri or Maryland? Why not rather give way to the inevitable, and let the thing go, just s fast as the laws of Nature and of war and God's provi lence were normally working to destroy it?

"It is conceded that the institution was put up at the hazard of the war with the first gun that was fired or The bail that broke a hole in the wall broke one thousand times as big in the constitutional ligament which held slavery in safety to the South. Henceforth it must take its chances. It turns out as we saw it would the chances are awfully against it; war is grinding it fine and wiping it off about as fast as possible in the na ture of things. Why not let it go? True, Kentucky, be-ing specially intent on this one thing, may hold on to the old shell of slavery for a while, but what will it amount to after all? If any thing is doomed, or being done for t is the 'patriarchal' concern in Maryland, Delaware West Virginia, Missouri, Arkansas, Louistana, and Ter essee. When it is wiped out in those States what wi t be worth in Kentucky !

" Nothing is more certain than that President, Cabinet ficent and inevitably destined to go through, has set in and is under way, there is no greater folly than to think to arrest it in mid career. This is the special weakness of small men, who get frightened at the noise and dust which is raised, and which they themselves perhaps helped

We trust of course to the President and his advisers to adhere, as far as may be, to constitutional forms, to save principles, and to make safe precedents. And as the President is a man of strictly legal mind and a good law-yer, and has good lawyers about him, the people do not feel any great solicitude that these things will not be attended to. "What we insist on is, that the mode of arbitrament

which the rebels have themselves chosen shall do its proper work; that savery shall take all the chances it has evoked: that these chances shall not be lessened, smooth ed, or soothed; but that the broom shall follow close or the heels of the retreating rebellion, and sweep clean eve ry square foot of ground it exposes. This will be found not only the safest and best course, but in the long run

Now, if it be true, as the Chicago Tribune affirms, (and as no "conservative" denies,) that slavery is going to "a general wreck as fast as time and the rush of events in God's providence can carry it," why should our "radical" friends give them- judge you in meat and drink, etc. selves so much trouble to hasten its progress at a are visibly marking for its exit? Repeating the very words of our contemporary, and modestly suggesting that some of its over-zealous friends might profitably take a lesson out of its book, we would propound to "radicals" the same query it propounded to "conservatives," and ask, "Why not rather give way to the inevitable, and let the thing go just as fast as the laws of Nature and of war and God's providence are normally working to de-

In fact, it is only the Constitutional Conservatives who can properly put this reproachful question to other people. They are now perfectly willing, and always have been since the war for the Union began, to see slavery recede before the progress of our arms "just as fast as the laws of Nature and of war and God's providence were normally working to destroy it." But the "radicals" were not satisfied with the " normal working" of these forces, and sought to quicken their operaclamations" declaring men to be free when they were not free, and millions of whom are still held in bondage. And, by thus seeking to get ahead of time, the laws of Nature, and of God's providence, they have incurred the usual penalty of such imprudence and presumption-that of making their miscalculations only the more signal in the eyes of the world and of postponing the realization of their wishes. The proclamation of January 1st, 1863, declaring the slaves of Alabama " now, henceforth, and forever free," was most palpably an anachronism, because in advance of "time," "the laws of war," and of "God's providence." And the fatuity of thus seeking to get the start of Time and Providence was never more strikingly illustrated than in the demonstrated inefficacy of that ediet. When the slaves of Alabama are free it will be by the "normal working" of those causes which every Conservative accepts in all their legitimate consequences, and which, but for the impatience and presumption of radical theorists, would have sooner borne the fruits desiderated by all good patriots and lovers of humanity. And we are glad to discover that this truth is now becoming so patent that even our hurrying reformers have come unconsciously to adopt the language and enforce the admonitions of such conservatives as are willing to follow the lead of Divine Providence, without being ambitious to get the advantage of it in the race of human progress.

Political conservatism seeks to find out the line of safe change and to follow it with steadiness and circumspection. Political radicalism, for sometimes lent in its processes, is not always so sure in its progress or so beneficial in its workings. Resem-

bling some mountain torrent, which is loud and desolating in its course, it may move with headlong speed, leaping from precipice to precipice in its easy descent, and bearing foam and feculence en its surface. But being fed by no perennial spring it rapidly passes away, leaving nothing but drift- They show that the victory at Chattanooga is wood and debris to mark the track of its swollen waters, which, spilled on the rock, make no city gladder for the tribute brought to its harbors and no plain more smiling for the abundance added to its harvests. Reforms, to be stable and beneficent, should not be the offspring of violence untempered by wise conduct, for it is as true now as when the Latin poet uttered it for the admonition of Augustus, that "force without counsel fall's by its own weight." Or, if we seek to find in modern verse the enunciation of the same sound philosophy, we have but to ponder the weighty Major Gen. H. W. HALLECK, General-in-Chief: lines of the German bard as reproduced by the English Coleridge:

"Straight forward goes The lightning's path, and straight the fearful path Of the cannon ball. Direct it flies and rapid, Shattering that it may reach, and shattering what it

My son, the road the human being travels, That on which blessing comes and goes, doth follow The river's course, the valley's playful windings, Curves round the cornfield and the hill of vines, And thus secure, though late, leads to its end

THE STRENGTH OF GEN. GRANT'S ARMY.

The St. Paul (Minnesota) Pioneer publishes the follow ng extract of a private letter written from the Army of the Cumberland previous to the late advance, which furnishes some interesting particulars as to the strength of Grant's force. We find it in the New York Evening Post :

"The Army of the Cumberland has been entirely reorganized by Gen. Grant. You would be surprised to know the number of regiments down here between Stevenson, Chattanooga, and Nashville. We have the old Army of the Cumberland, two corps of the Army of the Poto and two corps from the Army of the Tennessee, and others are coming. There are ninety regiments in a single corps of the Army of the Cumberland. No more regiments were ever got together in this country than are now on the soil of Middle Tennessee. I can see no show for Bragg, and without knowing the plans of our generals, I confidently look for a basty withdrawal of his army, or a thundering big smash up of his whole force.

Bragg missed it when he lay still around Chattanooga three weeks ago. Rosecrans's army was then on on quarter rations, without forage, his rear poorly guarded, and threatened daily. But now we are all right. Rations are plenty, and steamboats are running to within ten mile of Chattanooga. We have quite an army of Generals—Grant, Thomas, Granger, Hooker, Sherman, Howard, Slocum, Osterhaus, and Palmer, all commanding corps or de-partments of one or more corps. Our troops hall princi-pally from Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Penusylvania, New York, Missouri, Iowa, Kansas, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Kentucky, though severe other States are represented.

PROPOSED SUBSTITUTE FOR THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

At the Annual Meeting of the American Anti-Slavery Society, held in the city of New York in May last, it was resolved that the completion of another decade of the Society's existence should be marked by a special public meeting devoted to a general review and survey of the cause, to be held in the city of Philadelphia to-day, the third of December, "then and there to celebrate, in an appropriate manner, the thirtieth-and we would fain hope the final-anniversary of its formation." As the terms of the resolution thus contemplate a speedy dissolution of the society on the supposition that its specific labors are about to terminate with the overthrow of elavery in the United States, a correspondent of the National Anti Slavery Standard, commended by that journal as "a clergyman of unimpeachable orthodoxy," protests against any such determination, and proposes that the said society shall perpetuate its useful existence in order to take the place now filled by the Christian Church. He says :

"Probably there is not on earth a body of people, em bracing men and women of so much refinement and intelligence, who at this moment are so entirely free, as you Garrisonian Abolitionists. I say you, for while my abolitionism dates back to 1831, I have not acted with your society in the matter of voting, and have been therefore outside of your organization. The suspicion of heresy, which still enslaves many worthy men in Church organt zations, you scout, and treat as the idle wind which you respect not. You allow no society of men, either political Protestant or P conscience and stand between you and your God. You enjoy the full measure of Christian liberty which Paul minined upon his brethren when he said, 'Let no man

Now, the object of this communication is to suggest whether, instead of disbanding as a society and going into a state of disintegration, you ought not to continue your existence, locate branch societies in every neighborhood and hold monthly meetings for mutual improvement, and for the attainment of that Christian perfection which ail

sincere men long for. While whole Churches have gone into open apost cy by taking sides with the oppressor, and justifying the stem which violates every precept of the decalegue, you, who have never called yourselves 'the Church,' have re mained faithful to God and his Christ, and the interests of Christian morality. Thus you furnish to the men of cau-dor and of thought the best type of a Christian Church which the world now sees - a Church without a dominating priesthood and a procrustean creed, but whose member are all free from the restraints and traditions of men, and are kines and priests unto God. If you had your monthly meetings scattered throughout the country, where it was known that hone at, earnest, and intelligent men met for connsel and co operation, they would furnish a home for those who, discusted with the hypocrisy and treason of so many of the ecclesiastical organizations, are now in the condition of Noah's dove, which found no rest for the sole

Would it not be well to make this a topic of disease sion at Philadelphia? Bring on Theodore Weld, and Theodore Tilton, and Gerrit Smith, and the other Good Samaritans of the day, who rejoice in the freedom wherewith Christ has made them free, and instead of two days, spend a whole week in council. What a blessing to those of us who will form the audience to hear the illustrious men of your society speak on the signs of the times, and give their opinions as to what Christianity and our country now require at our hands. Most appropriately was it at Philadelphia where your society of brotherly love was or-ganized to break the bends of the slave. Most appropriately will it be the place for assembling all the liberators together to devise means for liberating the consciences and intellects of men every where.

As the Garrisonian Abolitionists have always pretty equally divided their maledictions between slavery and the Christian Church, we must admit that the writer is entirely logical in arguing that they should not disband because the former of these ignititutions is about to disappear. As the Church, however, is, in the words of Beza, " an anvil which has wern out many a hammer," and among them some much stronger than that wielded by our modern iconoclasts, we think the friends of Christianity need be in no great apprehensions of the rivalship with which it is threatened by the American Anti-Slavery Society.

THE STORMING OF MISSIONARY RIDGE.

The storming of the ridge in the great battle before Chattanooga on the 26th ultimo is thus described by an officer in a report to the War Department :

"The storming of the ridge by our troops was one of the greatest miracles in military history. No man, who climbs the ascent by any of the roads that wind along its front, can believe that eighteen thousand men were moved upon its broken and crumbling face, unless it was his fortune to witness the deed. It seems as awful as a visible interposition of God. Neither Gen. Grant nor Gen. Thomas intended it. Their orders were to carry the rifle pits along the base of the ridge and cut off their occupants; but when this was accomplished the unaccountable spirit of the troops bore them bodily up the impracticable steeps, over the bristling rifle-pits on the crest and the thirty cannon cufilading every gully. The order to storm appears to have been given simultaneously by Generals oridan and Wood because the men were not to be beld back, hopelees as the attempt appeared to military prudence. Besides, the Generals caught the inspiration the men, and were ready themselves to undertake impossi-

DEATH OF MRS. PIERCE.

THE VICTORY AT CHAFTANOOGA

OFFICIAL DESPATCHES

The following official despatches have been received at the War Department since our last issue. complete. Such unofficial details as have been transmitted by telegraph will be found in another

CHATTANOOGA, Nov. 25, 1863-7.15 P. M. Major Gen. HALLECK. General-in-Chief:

Although the battle lasted from early dawn till dark this evening, I believe I am not premature in announcing a complete victory over Bragg. Lookout Mountain Top, all the rifle-pits in Chattanooga Valley, and Missionary Ridge entire have been carried, and are now held by us. U. S. GRANT, Major General.

CHATTANOOGA, Nov. 25-12 o'clock, midnight.

The operations to-day have been more successful tha yesterday, having carried Missionary Ridge, from near Rossville to the railroad tunnel, with a comparatively small loss on our side, capturing about forty pieces of artillery, a large quantity of small arms, and camp and garrison equipage, besides the arms in the hands of prisoners. We captured two thousand pris ners, of whom two hundred were officers of all grades, from colonels

We will pursue the enemy in the morning. The con duct of the officers was every thing that could be expected.

Missionary Ridge was carried simultaneously at six different points.

GEO. H. THOMAS, Major General. HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,

Chattanooga, 1 A. M., November 27, 1863 Major Gen HALLECK, General-in-Chief:

I am just in from the front. The rout of the enemy i most complete. Abandoned wagons, caissons, and occasional pieces of artillery are every where to be found. think Bragg's loss will fully reach sixty pieces of artillery A large number of prisoners have fallen into our hands The pursuit will continue to "Red Clay" in the morning for which place I shall start in a few hours.

U. S. GRANT, Major General.

DETAILS BY GEN. MEIGS.

HEADQUARTERS, CHATTANOOGA, Nov. 26, 1863 To Hon. E. M. Stanton, Secretary of War.

SIR: On the 23d instant, at 11 30 A. M., Gen. Grant ordered a demonstration against Mission Ridge, to develop the force holding it. The troops marched out, formed in order, advanced in line of battle, as if on parade. The rebels watched the formation and movement from their picket lines and rifle pits, and from the summits of Mission Ridge, five hundred feet above us, and thought it was a review and drill, so openly and deliberately, so regularly was it all done. As the line advanced, preceded by skirmishers, and at half past two o'clock P. M. reached our picket lines, they opened a rattling volley upon the rebel pickets, who replied and ran into their advanced line o rifle pits. After them went our skirmishers, and into them, along the centre of the line of twenty-five thousand troops, which Gen. Thomas had so quickly displayed. Until we opened fire, prisoners assert that they thought the whole movement was a review and a general drill, and that it was too late to send to their camps for reinforcements, and that they were overwhelmed by force of num bers. It was a surprise in open daylight. At three P. M the important advanced position of Orchard Knob and the lines right and left were in our possession, and arrangements were ordered for holding them during the night.

The next day at daylight Gen. Thomas had five thousand men across the Tennessee, and established on its south bank, and commenced the construction of a pontoon bridge about six miles above Chattanooga. The rebel steamer Dunbar, repaired at the right moment, rendered effective aid in this crossing, carrying over six thousand men. By nightfall Gen. Thomas had seized the extremity of Mission Ridge, nearest the river, and was entrenching himself. Gen. Howard with a brigade opened communication with him from Chattanooga on the south side of the river. Skirmishing and cannonading continued all the day on the left and centre. Gen. Hocker scaled the slopes of Lookout Mountain from the valley of Look out Creek, drove the rebels around the point, captured some two thousand prisoners, and established himself high on the mountain side, in full view of Chattanooga. raised the blockade, and now steamers are ordered from Bridgeport to Chattanooga. They had run only to Kelley's Ferry, whence ten miles of hauling over mountain roads and twice across the Tennessee on pontoon bridges brought us our supplies. All night the point of Mission Ridge, on the extreme left, and the side of Lookov Mountain, on the extreme right, blazed with the camp fires of loyal troops. The day had been one of dense mist and rain, and much of Hooker's battle was fought above the clouds which concealed hm from our view, but from which his musketry was heard. At nightfall the sky cleared, and the full moon—the traitor's doom—shone upon the best tiful scene. Until I A. M. twinkling sparks upon the mountain side showed that picket skirmishing was going on. When it ceased a brigade sent from Chat googa crossed the Chattanooga Creek and opened communication with Hooker. Gen. Grant's headquarter. during the afternoon of the 23d and the day of the 24th were in Wood's redoubt, except when in the course of day he rode along the advance line, visi ing the headquarters of the several commanders in Chattanooga

At daylight on the 25th the stars and s'ripes were de scried on the peak of Lookout. The rebels had evacuated the mountain. Hooker mored to descend the mountain, and, striking Mission Ridge at the Rossville Gap, to sweep on both sides and on its summit. The rebel troops were seen as soon as it was light enough streaming by regiments and brigades along the narrow summit of Mission Ridge, either concentrating on the right to overwheim Sherman r marching for the railroad and raising the siege. They had evacuated the Valley of Chattanooga; would they abandon that of Chicksmauga? The twenty pounders and four and-a-quarter rifles of Wood's redoubt opened on Mission Ridge. Orchard Knob paid its compliments to the Ridge, which, with rifled Parrotts, answered, and the cannonade thus commenced continued all day. Shot and shell screamed from Orchard Knob to Mission Ridge, from Mission Ridge to Orchard Knob, and from Wood's redoubt over the heads of Generals Grant and Thomas and their staffs, who were with us in this favorable posi-

tion, whence the whole battle could be seen as in an amphitheatre. The headquarters were under fire all day. Cannonading and musketry were heard from General Sherman. Gen. Howard marched the Eleventh Corps to Thomas sent out skirmishers who drove in the rebel pickets and chased them into their entreachments. and at the foot of Mission Ridge Sherman made an assault against Bragg's right, entrenched on a high knob next to that on which Sherman himself lay fortified. The assault was gallantly made. The force making it reached the edge of the crest, held its ground for it seemed to me an ho but was bloodily repulsed by reserves. A general advance was ordered, and a strong line of skirmishers tollowed by a deployed line of battle some two miles in length. At the signal of his cannon shots from the head quarters on Orchard Knob, the column moved rapidly and orderly forward. The rebel pickets discharged their muskets and ran into their rifle-pits. Our skirmishers followed on their heels. The line of battle was not far behind, and we saw the gray rebels swarm out of the lo line of the rifle pits in numbers which surprised us, and over the base of the hill. A few turned and fired their neces, but the greater number collected into the many oads which cross obliquely up its steep face and went o o the top. Some regiments pressed on and swarmed up the steep sides of the Ridge. Here and there a color was advanced beyond the lines.

The attempt appeared most dangerous, but the advance was supported and the line ordered to storm the heights, upon which not less than forty pieces of artillery, and be knew how many muskets, stood ready to slaughter the *ssailants. With cheers answering to cheers the meswarmed upwards. They gathered to the point least diffi was planted on the summit, while musket and cannon vomited their thunder upon them. A well-directed shot from Orchard Knob exploded a rebel caisson on the summit, and the gun was seen galloping to the right, its driver lashing his horses. A party of our soldiers intercepted them, and the gun was captured with cheers. A fierce musketry fight broke out to the left, where, between musketry fight broke out to the left, where, between Thomas and Sherman, a mile or two of the Ridge was still occupied by the rebels. Braggleit the house in which he had held his headquarters, and rode to the rear as our troops crowned the bill on either side of him. Gen. Grant proceeded to the summit, and then did we only know its height. Some of the captured artillery was put into postion, artillerists were sent for to work the guns, caissons were searched for ammunition. The rabel works were torn to pieces and carried to the other side of the Ridge, and used in forming barricades across it A strong line of infautry was formed in the rear of Baird's

line, hotly engaged in a musketry confest with the rebels to the left, and a secure lodgment was soon effected.

The other assault, to the right of our centre, gained the summit, and the rebels threw down their arms and fled. Hooker, coming in favorable position, swept the right of the ridge and captured many prisoners. Bragg's remaining troops left early in the night, and the battle of Chattaoogs, after three days of manceuvring and fighting, was broken—Burnside relieved from danger; East Tennessee, Kentucky, and Tennessee rescued; Georgia and the Southwest threatened in the rear, and another victory added to the chapter of "Unconditional surrender Grant." l'o-night the estimate of captures is several thousand pri soners and thirty pieces of artiflery. The less for so great victory was not severe.

Bragg is firing the railroad as he retreats towards Dal-To day I viewed the battle field, which extends for eix niles along Mission Ridge and for several miles on Look out Mountain. Probably not so well directed, so well or-dered a battle has been delivered during the war. But one assault was repulsed; but that assault, by calling to that point the rebel reserves, prevented them repulsing any of the others. A few days since Bragg sent to Gon. Grant a flag of truce, advising him that it would be pru-dent to remove any non-combatants who might be still in Chattanooga. No reply has been returned, but the compatants having removed from this vicinity, it is now probable that non-combatants can remain without imprudence M. C. MEIGS,

DESPATCH FROM GEN THOMAS.

CHATTANOOGA, (TENN.) NOV. 27-12 P. M. Major Gen. H. W. HALLECK, General-in-Chief:

Gen. Palmer reports that Johnson's division of the Fourteenth Corps surprised A. P. Stewart's division last night taking four guns, two cai-sons, and many prisoners. Hooker reports his arrival at Ringgold at nine o'clock

A. M. to-day. He found the road strewn with caissons, lumbers, and ambulances. He commenced skirmishing with the enemy at eleven o'clock A. M., in Railroad Pass or Gap, near Ringgold, about half of Osterhaus's and a third of Geary's divisions engaged, and f reed the enemy to abandon the position he has taken in the passer. Both divisions suffered severely, the enemy making obstinate resistance

On the morning of the 24th I sent Col. Long, command ng the second brigade of the second cavalry division, across South Chickamauga to make raids on the Erst Tennessee and Georgia railroad. He returned this evering, bringing two hundred and fifty prisoners, and reports that he has destroyed the railroad from Tyner's Station to the Hiawassie, and ten miles southwest of Cleveland. He also destroyed eighty wagons and a large quantity of commissary stores and other supplies at Cleveland. The prisoners we have taken since the 23d now sum up more than five thousand. GEO. H. THOMAS, Major General Commanding.

DESTRUCTION OF REBEL PROPERTY.

CHATTANOOGA, DEC. 1.-Gens. Hooker and Palmer vacuated Ringgold this morning after burning the mills, depots, public building, and railway bridge. A cavalry reconneissance twenty three miles southward

liscovered no enemy, but they were found in force at Tennessee Hill. The railroad from Rieggold to Chickamauga was de-

stroyed by Gen. Hocker. Col. Gross's brigade were left on the old battle-field of

Chickamauga, burying the dead, a large number of whom had been left by the rebels uncovered since September Toere has been no fighting in this army since Hooker's

attack on Bragg's rear at Ringgold, on the 26th. Bragg was forced to march on, being badly whipped, and inflicting considerable loss upon Hocker. Our loss is about five to six hundred; the enemy's much larger. We have taken six thousand prisoners in the three days' battles, many of whom are officers. The army movements new going on are not for the public at present. The following is a list of general, field, and staff officers

who have been killed or wounded:

Brig. Gen. John E. Smith; Brig Gen. Corse; Brig Gen. Mathias; Brig Gen. Giles A. Smith; Brig. Gen W. S. Smith; Col. Phelps. 38th Ohio, commanding third brigsde; Major Irwin, 6th Ohio, killed; Major Burch, 93d Ohio, killed; Major Butterfield, 17th Ohio, wounded; Lieut, Col. Boyston, 35th Ohio, wounded; Col. Putnam, 93d Illinois, killed; Lieut Col. Stuart, 90th Illinois, wounded; Col. Raum and Major Walsh, 56th Illinois, wounded; Lieut. Col. Gilpin, 26th Illinois, wounded; Lieut. Col. Davidson, 77th Illinois, wounded; Col. Markda'e, 74th Illinois, wounded; N. H. Towner, Chief of Artillery, Gen. Smith's staff, wounded; Major Glare, 32d Indiana, killed; Col. sny, 68th Indiana mortally wounded: Major Carter, 38th Indiana, wounded; Col. O'Mears, 90th Iows, wounded; Major Mc-Cauley, 10th Iows, wounded; Col. Berry, 5th Kentucky. wounded; Major Walker, 10th Missouri, wounded; Major Craven, 3d Mis-ouri, wounded.

REBEL SPECULATIONS

The Richmond Enquirer of the 24th instant says: " The great barrier to the enemy's advance at Chattaooga is Lookout Mountain. This is Bragg's stronghold nd his position there is so impregnable to an assault that the enemy has not had the temerity yet to attempt to carry Yet he is busy with his operations, and it may be that

The army correspondent of the Savannah Republican

e may soon attempt a forward movement.

"The enemy, since effecting a lodgment in Lookout Vailey, has not been idle. He has thrown up defensive works for his infantry, and erec'ed batteries on the range of hills which, starting at Brown's Ferry, ron up the valley on the west side of Lookout Creek and divide it nearly into two equal parts. He is still engaged upon these works. The batteries are intended not only to defend the valley ferry against assault, but, in conjunction with the moceasin guns, to sweep the north face of Lookout Mountain. possession of this mountain is all that is necessary to render the position of the enemy safe and satisfactory, and the same time to render our position unsafe and unsatisfactory.

W. G. Swan, a member of the Rebel Congress, writes to the Richmond Examiner a long defence of Gen. Bragg. in the course of which he says:

"The achievements of Gen. Brage's army have at last, however, constrained not only the enemy but our own country to appreciate properly its importance and the great interest confided to it. The eyes of two hostile people are directed with an intensity of interest never before manifested to the scene of its operations. The whole power almost of the United States Government now conronts and threatens it, while it stands bristling on Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge like an impregnable fortress between us and the e.e.my. The fate of the Con-federacy seems to be su-pended upon its successful resistance or failure; and yet, strangely, in the face of this great fact, there are those who would array against the chief of this army the worst prejudices of his soldiers. by the encouragement to neglect of duty and to desertion which these carpings afford; so much indeed that if Gen. Brogg had been less a soldier and disciplinarian his army would have long

The Richmond Enquirer of the 18th, in an article upon Bragg and his Generals, places the responsibility for his defeat upon Gen. Jefferson Davis. It says:

" Gen. Bragg having requested to be removed, the re sponsibility of his retention is openly and boldly assumed by the President, and the prayer of every patriot is that he may be right and all others wrong. We hope that his wisdom may again demonstrate itself, that Gen. Bragg may illustrate its propriety with a glorious victory, and that the President may ever point to this controversy and to this responsibility with proud satisfaction."

ESCAPE OF JOHN MORGAN.

CLEVELAND, Nov. 28 .- John Morgan and six efficers scaped from the Columbus penitentiary last night. Great exertions are being made to recapture them.

COLUMBUS, Nov. 28.-The six officers who escaped with John Morgan this morning were-Captains Bennett, Taylor, Sheldon, Haines, Hockersmith, and Magee.

John Morgan, on retiring, changed with his brother Dick from the top cell to the lower tier, and dug their way out under the wall of the jail. They have not yet been retaken.

Mr. Fulton, of the Baltimore American, has received permission to go to Richmond as a private citizen, to act as a medium of communication between the prisoners there confined and their friends who may send them provisions or clothing. The consent of Commissioner Ould ha t yet been obtained to this arrangement.